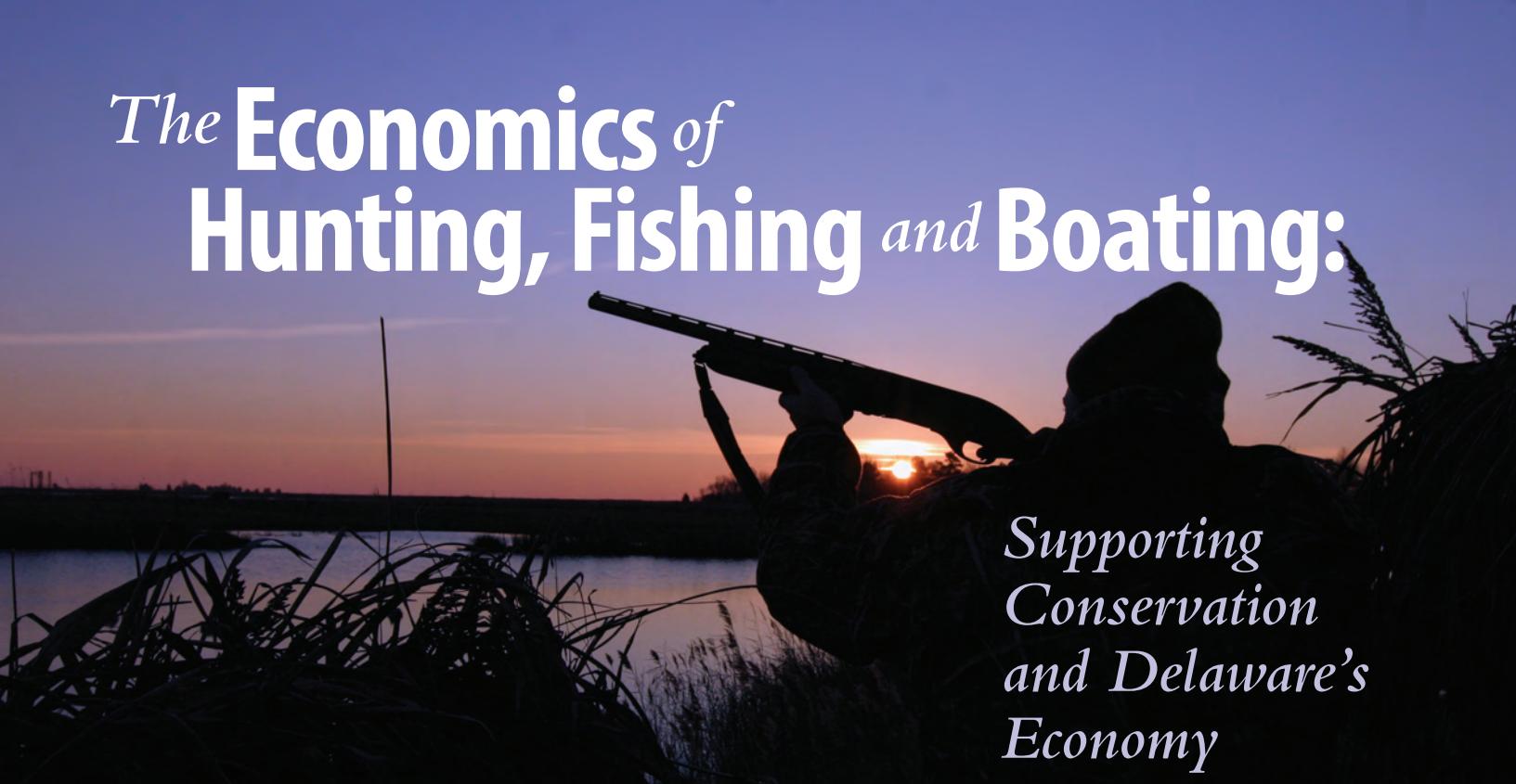


The Economics of Hunting, Fishing and Boating:



Supporting Conservation and Delaware's Economy

BY DAVID E. SAVEIKIS

WHEN YOU THINK of hunting, fishing or boating, your first thought might be the excitement, relaxation or companionship enjoyed from participating in these great outdoor pursuits and traditions. Perhaps it is a personal connection to a special place or time of day afield or on the water that inspires, consoles or rejuvenates you. Indeed, these are some of the reasons why most of us are so passionate about our favorite outdoor pursuits that connect us with nature and the great outdoor experience.

Less intuitive or known is who primarily pays for conservation, and the value of hunting, fishing and boating to Delaware's economy. The economics of hunting, fishing and boating consist of two separate, but interrelated, components: funding conservation and supporting jobs and the state's economy.

Funding conservation

Hunters and anglers provide the majority of funding for wildlife and fisheries conservation in the U.S. and in Delaware. These funds are generated through an extremely successful "user-pay, public-



Considering firearms at Smiths Bait & Tackle in Leipsic.

state hunting and fishing license revenues and matching federal funds, representing 93 percent of these programs' combined operating budgets.

The funds paid by hunters and anglers are used for wildlife and fish management and research; habitat restoration and management; acquisition and management of public wildlife areas; construction and maintenance of boat ramps and fishing access areas; and providing general access to these public lands and facilities. It is noteworthy that wildlife habitat restoration and management funded with hunter dollars helps conserve both hunted and non-hunted wildlife species and their habitats. While hunters and anglers directly benefit by "paying their way," the general public also benefits from hunters and anglers directly paying for wildlife, fish and habitat conservation, and through access to wildlife areas for wildlife watching and other compatible activities.

If you are a hunter or angler, thank you for financially supporting conservation. If you are not a hunter or angler, please consider financially supporting

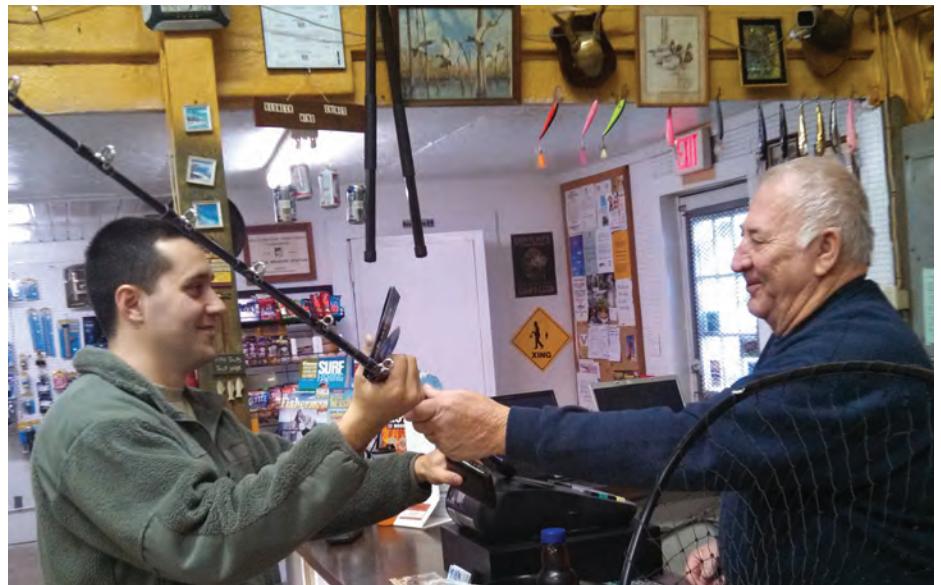
benefit" funding model. Revenues from the sale of recreational hunting and fishing licenses are matched to federal funds generated through dedicated excise taxes paid by hunters and anglers when they purchase hunting and fishing equipment. Every dollar of state license revenue brings in three dollars of such federal funding from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. In the most recent certified license year, Delaware's 16,860 licensed recreational hunters and 82,412 licensed recreational anglers generated an annual total of \$9.95 million in combined

wildlife and fish conservation by purchasing a hunting or fishing license.

Supporting jobs and the economy - the “conservation economy”

Delaware’s economy benefits from recreational hunters, anglers and boaters who spend considerable amounts of money in pursuit of their pastimes. It is a little known fact that money spent on hunting, fishing and boating is an economic engine that helps support Delaware’s economy. Hunter, angler and boater spending not only includes direct equipment and service purchases at local sporting goods and boating businesses, but also secondary spending at restaurants, motels, gas stations, convenience stores and a host of other businesses. The most recent economic data from 2011 indicates that recreational hunting, fishing and boating directly and secondarily generated a combined contribution to Delaware’s economy of \$1.16 billion dollars and supported 9,684 jobs that year. That is big business and an economic force on par with Delaware’s largest employers.

A closer look at the relative economic contributions of recreational hunting, fishing and boating spending to Delaware’s economy reveals some interesting statistics. During 2011, direct and secondary annual hunting spending totaled \$61.7 million and supported 549 jobs, fishing spending totaled more than \$149 million and supported 1,319 jobs, and boating spending totaled over \$950



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Customer Jacob Roose (L) checks out fishing rods as Sidney Smith (R) of Smith's Bait & Tackle, looks on.

million and supported 7,816 jobs. Each of these conservation and economic sectors provides a significant and important role in supporting Delaware’s “conservation economy.”

The business and future of conservation and associated outdoor recreation

DNR EC’s Division of Fish and Wildlife is in the business of bringing the great outdoors to Delaware’s residents and visitors by conserving wildlife, fish, and their habitats, and by promoting and providing public opportunities for hunting, fishing and boating. The funding provided by hunters and anglers and

others who purchase hunting and fishing licenses financially support wildlife, fish, and habitat conservation, and access to our public lands, waterways and facilities. This funding is an integral and major part of the division’s mission and business plan. We are proud of our success and role in wisely using this funding to support Delaware’s conservation economy by providing sustainable wildlife and fish populations, quality habitats, and hunter, angler and boater access to our treasured natural resources.

Hunting, fishing and boating is good business, whether it is recreational hunters and anglers providing the majority of funding for wildlife, fisheries and habitat conservation, or hunter, angler and boater spending bolstering Delaware’s economy. Recognition of the roles of and continued investment in hunting, fishing and boating will help sustain and grow Delaware’s economy. This is an investment in the future that we can all count on to return dividends to Delaware’s economy, the state’s wildlife and fish and their habitats, and the future of hunting, fishing, boating and conservation. As you enjoy a day connecting with the great outdoors while hunting, fishing or boating, take pride in what you’re doing to support wildlife and fish conservation and Delaware’s economy. **OD**

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Anglers at Cedar Creek Boat Ramp.

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